

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07

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INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY ROME

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T USNATO 1710

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: FLANK SECURITY

REF: USNATO 1483 DTG 181017Z MAR

1. THIS MESSAGE TRANSMITS THE TEXT OF DEMARCHE ON FLANK SECURITY, SLIGHTLY REVISED FROM TEXT IN REFTEL IN LIGHT OF RECENT SPC MEETINGS, WHICH CHARGE INTENDS TO MAKE WITH ITALIAN DELEGATION. MISSION HAS MADE SOME OF THESE POINTS ORALLY WITH FRG REP, BUT DOES NOT BELIEVE IT NECESSARY TO MAKE DEMARCHE WITH FRG IN VIEW OF RUTH CONVERSATION AT ACDA.

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2. BEGIN TEXT:

THE SENIOR POLITICAL COMMITTEE OF NATO HAS RESUMED ITS WORK ON GUIDANCE TO THE ALLIED ADHOC GROUP IN VIENNA

ON FLANK SECURITY.

THE ONLY REMAINING SUBSTANTIVE POINT AT ISSUE IN THE GUIDANCE CONCERNS HOW THE ALLIES WILL DESCRIBE TO THE EAST THE GEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS WHERE U.S. AND SOVIET FORCES WITHDRAWN IN PHASE I WOULD NOT REDEPLOY. THE SENTENCE IN QUESTION IN THE GUIDANCE IS AS FOLLOWS:

"FORCES WITHDRAWN ACCORDING TO THE PRESENT AGREEMENT WILL NOT BE REDEPLOYED (IN GEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS) SINCE THE AREAS CONTIGUOUS TO THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS AND TO THE TERRITORIES OF PARTICIPANTS HAVING A SPECIAL STATUS)

WHERE THEIR ADDED PRESENCE WOULD EITHER INFRINGE UPON THE PRINCIPLE THAT FORCE REDUCTIONS IN CENTRAL EUROPE SHOULD NOT DIMINISH THE SECURITY OF THOSE COUNTRIES HAVING PARTICIPATED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH SPECIAL STATUS OR CIRCUMVENT THE OBJECTIVE PURSUED IN THIS AGREEMENT OF ENHANCING STABILITY AND SECURITY IN EUROPE."

THIS SENTENCE IS PART OF THE BELGIAN COMPROMISE PROPOSAL SUBMITTED LAST FALL. THE FIRST BRACKETED PHRASE IS THE ORIGINAL LANGUAGE ON GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS. THE SECOND BRACKETED PHRASE IS AN AMENDMENT, WHICH SEEKS TO DEFINE THOSE REGIONS MORE PRECISELY.

THE U.S. CONSIDERS BOTH PHRASES TO BE SERIOUS, WELL-CONSIDERED CONTRIBUTIONS TO ALLIED WORK ON GUIDANCE TO THE AD HOC GROUP ON FLANK SECURITY. HOWEVER, THE U.S. CONSIDERS THAT THE FIRST BRACKETED PHRASE HAS A SIGNIFICANT ADVANTAGE IN AVOIDING ANY IMPLICATION THAT THERE ARE EXACT, DEFINABLE GEOGRAPHIC LIMITS TO AREAS WHERE REDEPLOYMENT OF WITHDRAWN FORCES WOULD DIMINISH SECURITY. THE U.S. NOTES THAT THE SECOND BRACKETED PHRASE WOULD IMPOSE A SPECIFIC CONSTRAINT ON MOVEMENTS OF SOVIET FORCES IN SOVIET TERRITORY. THIS WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO NEGOTIATE, AND MAY BE NONNEGOTIABLE. IN SECRET

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ADDITION, IF THE SOVIETS DID NEGOTIATE ON THIS BASIS, THERE IS THE DANGER OF RECIPROCAL LIMITATIONS ON MOVEMENTS OF ALLIED FORCES OUTSIDE THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS, WHICH WOULD BROADEN THE GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS OF THE NEGOTIATION, AND WHICH WOULD NOT BE TOLERABLE FOR NATO. THE U.S., FOR THESE REASONS, SUPPORTS THE FIRST BRACKETED PHRASE.

THE SECOND BRACKETED PHRASE, IN RESTRICTING THE REDEPLOYMENT OF WITHDRAWN SOVIET FORCES TO AREAS CONTIGUOUS TO THE REDUCTIONS AREA, WOULD APPLY NOT ONLY TO THE FLANKS, BUT ALSO TO HUNGARY. THE U.S. AGREES WITH ITALY THAT THE ALLIES MUST SEEK TO PREVENT SOVIET FORCE INCREASES IN HUNGARY, IN CIRCUMVENTION OF AN AMBR AGREEMENT, BUT MEANS WHICH DO NOT IMPOSE RESTRICTIONS ON ITALY.

THE U.S. WISHES TO ASSURE ITALY OF ITS INTENTION TO SUPPORT
APPROPRIATE NON-CIRCUMVENTION LANGUAGE AT A LATER DATE AFTER
THE OUTLINE OF A REDUCTION AGREEMENT HAS TAKEN SHAPE IN THE
NEGOTIATION.

THE U.S. CONSIDERS THAT THE FIRST BRACKETED PHRASE PROVIDES
AN ADQQUATE STANDARD FOR SAFEGUARDING THE SECURITY OF THE FLANKS,
WITHOUT RESTRICTING ALLIED FLEXIBILITY. THE U.S. HOPES THAT
ITALY CAN SUPPORT THE FIRST BRACKETED PHRASE, IN THE INTEREST
OF EARLY COMPLETION OF SPC AND NAC WORK ON GUIDANCE ON FLANK
SECURITY, TO ENABLE THE AD HOC GROUP TO MAKE CLEAR TO THE OTHER
SIDE THAT MBFR MUST NOT DIMINISH THE SECURITY OF THE FLANK COUNTRIES.

END TEXT
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